

Atty. Docket No.: 705579US1

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 8-12 are now pending in the application. Independent claim 1 is currently amended, and claims 2, 8-12 have been previously presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Taylor, (U.S. Pat. No. 4,991,827). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to distinguish over Taylor in that the composite spring of the applicant's invention is perpendicularly positioned across the vehicle frame members, and the two ends of the composite spring are connected to parallel wheel assemblies of the vehicle.

In contradistinction, Taylor discloses a suspension system having vehicle frame members and a composite spring with a sinusoidal neutral axis in a free state transversely spanning the vehicle frame members. The spring of Taylor does not, however, have two ends connected to parallel wheel assemblies. Instead, the two spring ends of Taylor are actually connected to the frame members (see Fig. 25, leg portion 99 and portion 106). The spring shown in Fig. 25 is also not perpendicularly positioned across the vehicle frame members. Instead, the spring circuitously transverses the frame members.

For these reasons applicant's amended claim 1 is clearly distinguishable from Taylor.

The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 which the applicant believes is now in a condition for allowance. Consequently, applicants believe the remaining claims are now also in a condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

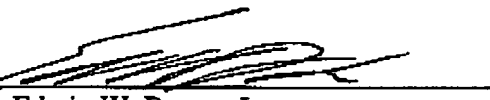
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 944-6526.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

March 11, 2004

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